

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8991

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, SF

SUBJ: ARAB-AFRICAN CHARGES AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA

REF: STATE 234134 (NOTAL), LUSAKA 2146

1. THERE NO EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO EMBASSY TO SUPPORT ACCUSATION THAT SOUTH AFRICA GAVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL. IT DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THIS COUNTRY COULD HAVE CLANDESTINELY SHIPPED MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR PROVIDED TROOPS. MOREOVER THERE NO SHORTAGE IN ISRAEL OF TYPE OF WEAPONS, E.G. SMALL ARMS, THAT SAG COULD HAVE MADE AVAILABLE. AS FOR SA JET FIGHTERS, THERE NO WAY ANY COULD HAVE BEEN FLOWN UNDETECTED FROM SA TO ISRAEL. IN ADDITION, SAAF JETS ARE OBSOLESCE BY ISRAELI STANDARDS AND DO NOT HAVE THE SOPHISTICATED ARMAMENT NECESSARY FOR THE KIND OF AERIAL WARFARE THAT TOOK PLACE IN EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI SKIES.

2. SUCH ASSISTANCE THAT HAS GONE FROM SOUTH AFRICA TO ISRAEL HAS BEEN IN FORM OF FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS GATHERED AND DISPATCHED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S JEWISH COMMUNITY. SOME SOUTH
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AFRICAN JEWS FOUGHT WITH ISRAELI ARMED FORCES, BUT MOST OF

THESE WERE EMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL.

3. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, NO SAG MINISTER HAS MADE STATEMENT TO EFFECT THAT ISRAEL WAS ALLY OF SOUTH AFRICA. UNLESS MININTERIOR MULDER MADE SOME SUCH DECLARATION WHEN HE VISITED ISRAEL, WE CAN ONLY SURMISE, AS DEPARTMENT HAS DONE, THAT ARAB-AFRICAN ACCUSATION SAG OFFICIAL MADE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL IS DISTORTION OF STATEMENTS MADE AT OUTSET OF WAR.

4. IN SUM, ALTHOUGH IT QUITE CLEAR SOUTH AFRICA'S SYMPATHIES LIE WITH ISRAEL IN ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, WE CAN SEE NO SUBSTANCE TO CHARGES ARABS AND AFRICANS HAVE MADE.
HURD

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